



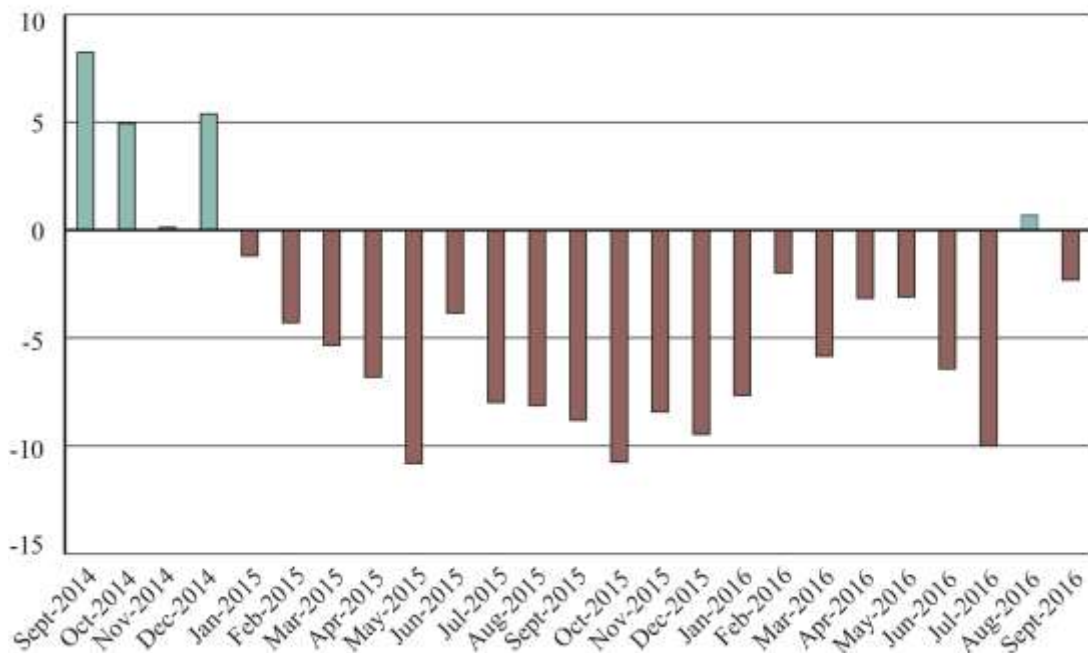
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of Public Affairs
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590
<http://www.dot.gov/briefingroom>

BTS Data

BTS 60-16
Tuesday, November 29, 2016
Contact: Dave Smallen
Tel: 202-366-5568
david.smallen@dot.gov

September 2016 North American Freight Numbers

Figure 1. U.S.-NAFTA Freight Value Percent Change from Previous Year (Last 24 months)



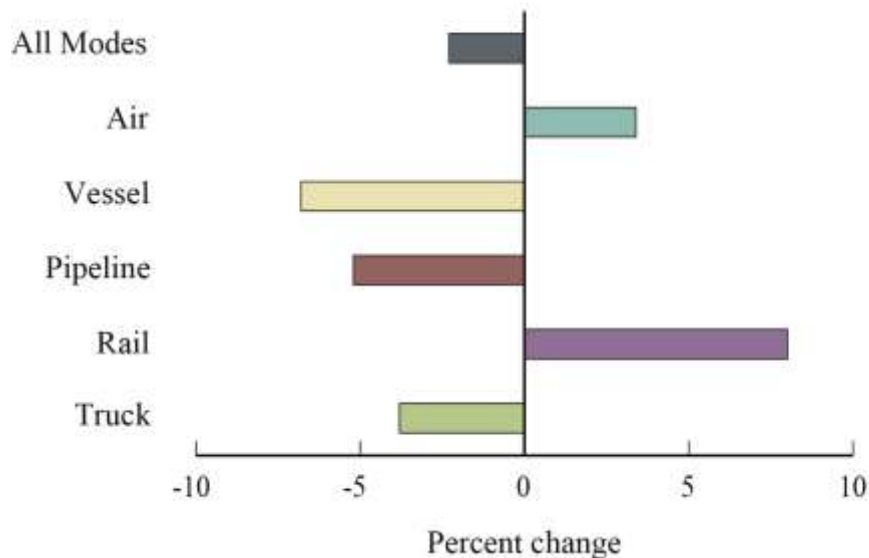
SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

Two transportation modes – rail and air – carried more U.S. freight by value with North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) partners Canada and Mexico in September 2016 compared to September 2015 as total freight on all modes decreased 2.3 percent to \$91.1 billion in current dollars, according to the TransBorder Freight Data released today by the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) (Figure 1, Table 1).

The total value of cross-border freight has declined from the same month of the previous year in 20 of the past 21 months beginning in January 2015 with only an increase of 0.7 percent in August 2016 (Figure 1, Table 1).

Freight by Mode

Figure 2. Percent Change in Value of U.S.-NAFTA Freight Flows by Mode: September 2015-2016



SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

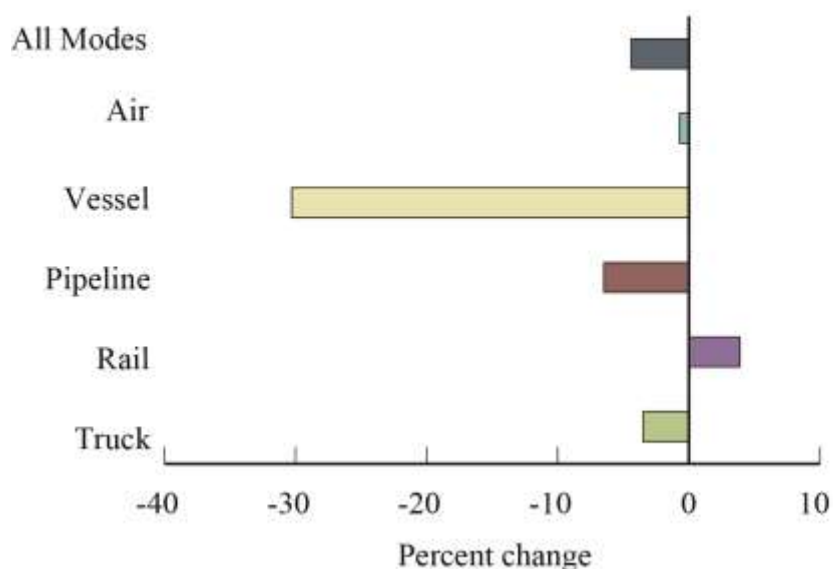
The value of commodities moving by rail and air increased 8.0 percent and 3.4 percent respectively, while the value of freight carried on other modes decreased: truck, 3.8 percent; pipeline, 5.2 percent and vessel, 6.8 percent (Figure 2, Table 2).

Trucks carried 64.7 percent of U.S.-NAFTA freight and continued to be the most heavily utilized mode for moving goods to and from both U.S.-NAFTA partners. Trucks accounted for \$30.1 billion of the \$48.8 billion of imports (61.7 percent) and \$28.9 billion of the \$42.4 billion of exports (68.1 percent) (Table 2).

Rail remained the second largest mode by value, moving 15.9 percent of all U.S.-NAFTA freight, followed by vessel, 5.4 percent; pipeline, 4.9 percent; and air, 4.1 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 85.5 percent of the total value of U.S.-NAFTA freight flows (Table 2).

U.S.-Canada Freight

Figure 3. Percent Change in Value of U.S.-Canada Freight Flows by Mode: September 2015-2016



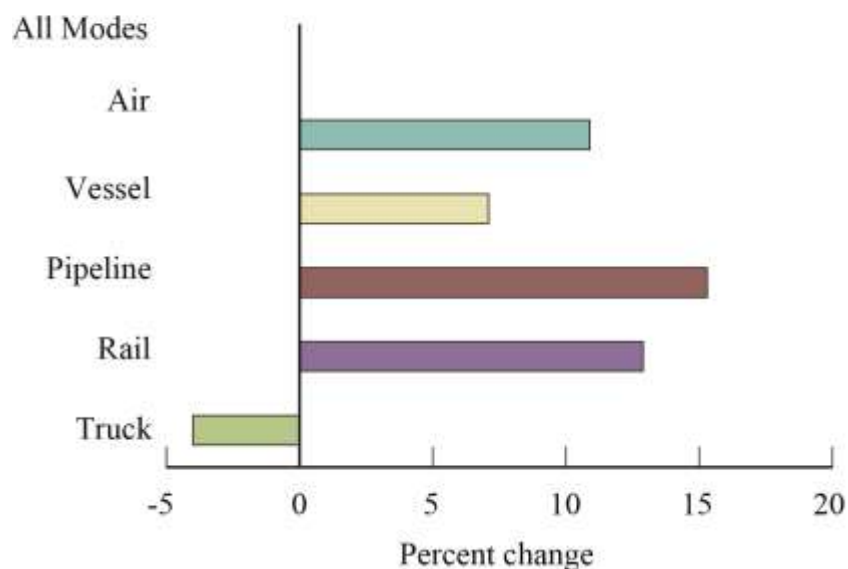
SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

From September 2015 to September 2016, the value of U.S.-Canada freight flows fell 4.4 percent to \$46.2 billion mainly due to decreases in the value of goods moved by vessel and pipeline. All modes of transportation except rail carried a lower value of U.S.-Canada freight than a year earlier (Figure 3, Table 3).

Trucks carried 59.6 percent of the value of the freight to and from Canada. Rail carried 16.4 percent followed by pipeline, 9.0 percent; air, 5.1 percent; and vessel, 2.9 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 85.0 percent of the value of total U.S.-Canada freight flows (Table 3).

U.S.-Mexico Freight

Figure 4. Percent Change in Value of U.S.-Mexico Freight Flows by Mode: September 2015-2016



SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

From September 2015 to September 2016, the value of U.S.-Mexico freight decreased 0.04 percent to \$44.9 billion despite four modes of transportation – pipeline, rail, air, and vessel – carrying a higher value of U.S.-Mexico freight than a year earlier. Truck, which accounts for 69.9 percent of the value of freight to and from Mexico, was down 4.0 percent. Freight carried by pipeline increased by 15.3 percent, rail by 12.9 percent, air by 10.9 percent, and vessel by 7.1 percent (Figure 4, Table 4).

Rail carried 15.4 percent of the value of freight to and from Mexico followed by vessel, 7.9 percent; air, 3.1 percent; and pipeline, 0.8 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 86.1 percent of the value of total U.S.-Mexico freight flows (Table 4).

Commodities

In September 2016, the top commodity category transported between the U.S. and Canada by all modes was vehicles and parts, of which \$5.2 billion, or 55.9 percent, moved by truck and \$3.9 billion, or 41.8 percent, moved by rail (Figure 5). The top commodity category transported between the U.S. and Mexico by all modes in September 2016 was electrical machinery, of which \$7.4 billion, or 81.8 percent, moved by truck (Figure 6).

Reporting Notes

BTS press releases and the BTS website define surface transportation modes as truck, rail and pipeline. See [North American TransBorder Freight Data](#) on the BTS website for additional data for surface modes since 1995 and all modes since 2004. The category of all modes of transportation cited in the following tables includes freight movements by truck, rail, vessel, pipeline, air, [other](#) and unknown modes of transport.

Data in this press release are not seasonally adjusted and are not adjusted for inflation. Additional summary data adjusted for inflation and exchange rates can be found on the BTS website under [TransBorder Indexed Freight Flow Data](#). The BLS indexes used in the adjustments for inflation and exchange rates might be revised in each of the three months after original publication. For previous press releases and summary tables, see [TransBorder Press Releases](#). See [TransBorder Freight Data](#) for data from previous months, and for additional state, port, and commodity data. BTS has scheduled the release of October TransBorder numbers for Jan. 5.

Table 1. Value of Monthly U.S.-NAFTA Freight Flows
(millions of current dollars)

Month	2014	2015	2016	Percent Change 2014-2015	Percent Change 2015-2016
January	90,326	89,258	82,430	-1.2	-7.7
February	89,557	85,723	84,038	-4.3	-2.0
March	101,478	96,070	90,462	-5.3	-5.8
April	100,141	93,327	90,380	-6.8	-3.2
May	103,942	92,707	89,840	-10.8	-3.1
June	102,978	99,030	92,671	-3.8	-6.4
July	101,075	92,995	83,725	-8.0	-10.0
August	100,624	92,442	93,126	-8.1	0.7
September	102,245	93,246	91,126	-8.8	-2.3
October	108,243	96,624		-10.7	
November	96,252	88,154		-8.4	
December	95,811	86,748		-9.5	
Year-to-date	892,366	834,799	797,798	-6.5	-4.4
Annual	1,192,671	1,106,325		-7.2	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

NOTE: Numbers might not add to totals due to rounding. Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

Table 2. Value of Monthly U.S.-NAFTA Freight Flows by Mode of Transportation
(millions of current dollars)

Mode		September 2015	September 2016	Percent Change September 2015-2016
All Modes	Imports	50,497	48,755	-3.4
	Exports	42,750	42,371	-0.9
	Total	93,246	91,126	-2.3
All Surface Modes	Imports	44,473	43,160	-3.0
	Exports	34,965	34,785	-0.5
	Total	79,438	77,946	-1.9
Truck	Imports	31,705	30,100	-5.1
	Exports	29,580	28,865	-2.4
	Total	61,285	58,965	-3.8
Rail	Imports	8,857	9,545	7.8
	Exports	4,570	4,953	8.4
	Total	13,427	14,498	8.0
Pipeline	Imports	3,912	3,515	-10.1
	Exports	815	967	18.7
	Total	4,726	4,482	-5.2
Vessel	Imports	2,678	2,414	-9.8
	Exports	2,581	2,487	-3.6
	Total	5,258	4,901	-6.8
Air	Imports	1,604	1,646	2.7
	Exports	2,047	2,127	3.9
	Total	3,651	3,773	3.4

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](http://www.bts.gov/programs/international/TransBorder/TBDR_DataFields.html)

NOTES: Numbers might not add to totals due to rounding. Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding. The value of trade for all modes is not equal to the sum of truck, rail, pipeline, vessel and air modes, it also includes shipments made by mail, foreign trade zones, and other transportation. For additional detail, please refer to the "Data Fields" section of the TransBorder web page:

http://www.bts.gov/programs/international/TransBorder/TBDR_DataFields.html

Table 3. Value of Monthly U.S.-Canada Freight Flows by Mode of Transportation
(millions of current dollars)

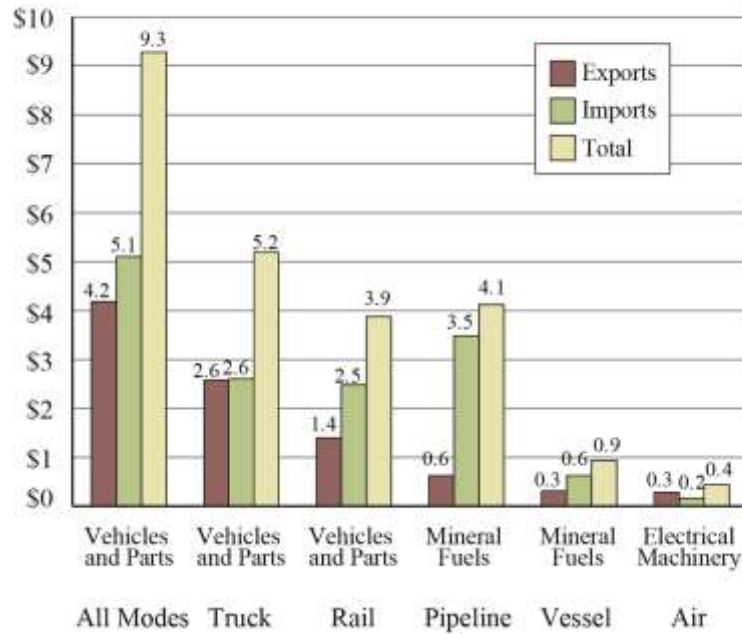
Mode		September 2015	September 2016	Percent Change September 2015-2016
All Modes	Imports	25,140	23,666	-5.9
	Exports	23,155	22,525	-2.7
	Total	48,295	46,191	-4.4
All Surface Modes	Imports	21,813	20,899	-4.2
	Exports	18,460	18,366	-0.5
	Total	40,273	39,265	-2.5
Truck	Imports	12,884	12,376	-3.9
	Exports	15,663	15,171	-3.1
	Total	28,547	27,547	-3.5
Rail	Imports	5,037	5,024	-0.2
	Exports	2,257	2,551	13.0
	Total	7,293	7,575	3.9
Pipeline	Imports	3,892	3,499	-10.1
	Exports	540	644	19.3
	Total	4,432	4,143	-6.5
Vessel	Imports	1,068	834	-21.9
	Exports	884	527	-40.4
	Total	1,952	1,361	-30.3
Air	Imports	1,048	1,010	-3.5
	Exports	1,334	1,355	1.6
	Total	2,382	2,365	-0.7

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](http://www.bts.gov/programs/international/TransBorder/TBDR_DataFields.html)

NOTES: Numbers might not add to totals due to rounding. Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding. The value of trade for all modes is not equal to the sum of truck, rail, pipeline, vessel and air modes, it also includes shipments made by mail, foreign trade zones, and other transportation. For additional detail, please refer to the "Data Fields" section of the TransBorder web page:

http://www.bts.gov/programs/international/TransBorder/TBDR_DataFields.html

**Figure 5. Top Commodity Transported between the U.S. and Canada for Each Mode of Transportation, September 2016
(billions of current dollars)**



SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

NOTES: Import and export numbers might not add to totals due to rounding.

Table 4. Value of Monthly U.S.-Mexico Freight Flows by Mode of Transportation
(millions of current dollars)

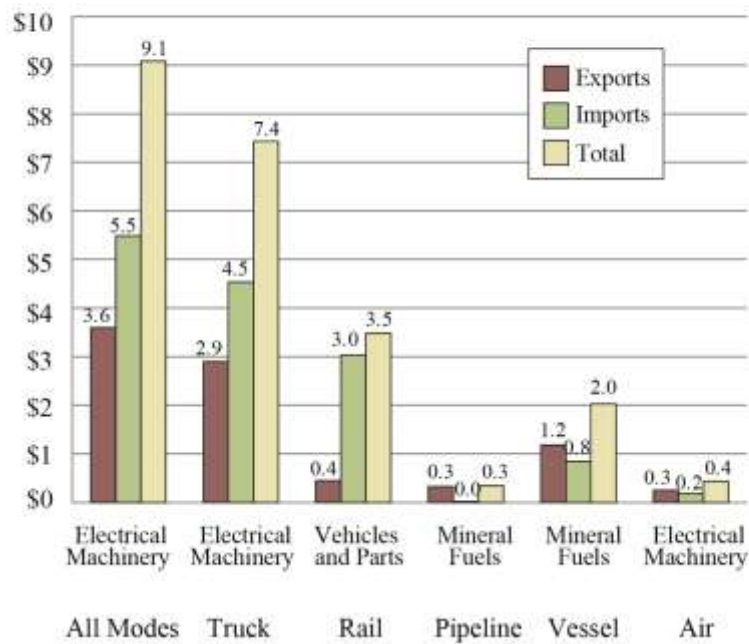
Mode		September 2015	September 2016	Percent Change September 2015-2016
All Modes	Imports	25,356	25,089	-1.1
	Exports	19,595	19,846	1.3
	Total	44,951	44,935	0.0
All Surface Modes	Imports	22,661	22,261	-1.8
	Exports	16,505	16,419	-0.5
	Total	39,165	38,681	-1.2
Truck	Imports	18,821	17,724	-5.8
	Exports	13,917	13,694	-1.6
	Total	32,737	31,418	-4.0
Rail	Imports	3,821	4,521	18.3
	Exports	2,313	2,402	3.8
	Total	6,134	6,923	12.9
Pipeline	Imports	19	16	-15.5
	Exports	275	323	17.5
	Total	294	339	15.3
Vessel	Imports	1,610	1,580	-1.9
	Exports	1,697	1,960	15.5
	Total	3,306	3,540	7.1
Air	Imports	556	636	14.3
	Exports	713	772	8.3
	Total	1,269	1,408	10.9

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](http://www.bts.gov/programs/international/TransBorder/TBDR_DataFields.html)

NOTES: Numbers might not add to totals due to rounding. Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding. The value of trade for all modes is not equal to the sum of truck, rail, pipeline, vessel and air modes, it also includes shipments made by mail, foreign trade zones, and other transportation. For additional detail, please refer to the "Data Fields" section of the TransBorder web page:

http://www.bts.gov/programs/international/TransBorder/TBDR_DataFields.html

**Figure 6. Top Commodity Transported between the U.S. and Mexico for Each Mode of Transportation, September 2016
(billions of current dollars)**



SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

NOTES: Import and export numbers might not add to totals due to rounding.